

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 18058

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTARIES ON THIRD HELSINKI
ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: SOVIET EFFORTS TO PORTRAY WEST EUROPEAN
GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE FRG, AS PURSUING POLICIES
MORE IN LINE WITH THE NEEDS OF DETENTE THAN THOSE
OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, ARE MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN
COMMENTARIES IN RECENT DAYS MARKING THE THIRD ANNI-
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VERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.
THE OVERALL THRUST OF COMMENT IS THAT HELSINKI HAS
HAD A "GREAT POSITIVE INFLUENCE" ON THE EUROPEAN
CONTINENT AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THE RECENT VISITS
OF BREZHNEV TO THE FRG AND ECEVIT TO THE SOVIET
UNION ARE SINGLED OUT IN PARTICULAR FOR HAVING
CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRACTICAL FULFILLMENT OF HELSINKI

PRINCIPLES. THE "OPPONENTS" OF DETENTE ARE RAKED OVER FOR TRYING TO UNDERMINE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE ON THE CONTINENT BY RESORTING TO VARIOUS ANTI-DETENTE MANEUVERS, INCLUDING INTERFERING IN OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS, APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE ECONOMIC/TRADE FRONT, CONJURING UP A "SOVIET THREAT," AND PROMOTING THE NEUTRON BOMB. WESTERN "MILITARY CIRCLES," "SOME NATO COUNTRIES" AND THE WHITE HOUSE IN A FEW INSTANCES ARE IDENTIFIED AS BEHIND THESE COUNTERMOVES. IN THE AUTHORITATIVE "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN IN PRAVDA JULY 30, WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES OF THE U.S. IN NATO ARE SAID TO BE "DISTANCING THEMSELVES DEMONSTRATIVELY FROM THE RASH ACTIONS OF WASHINGTON" BUT NO SPECIFIC INSTANCES ARE CITED. WE NOTE THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV, IN HIS JULY 31 PRESS CONFERENCE (SEPTEL), DOES NOT PLAY ON THIS THEME FURTHER BUT CRITICIZES THE BRITISH AS WELL AS THE AMERICANS FOR "UNILATERAL ACTIONS" VIOLATING HELSINKI. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET COMMENTATORS POSITIVELY ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON ITS THIRD ANNIVERSARY. CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF UNION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, ALEKSEY SHITIKOV, WRITING IN IZVESTIYA JULY 29, ENUMERATES A VARIETY OF AREAS WHERE HE

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BELIEVES PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITHIN THE FINAL ACT FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING CARRYING OUT CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES IN THE MILITARY FIELD, STRENGTHENING TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES, EXPANDING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, EXPANDING CONTACTS IN INFORMATION AND AMONG PEOPLES. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT S. VISHNEVSKIY, IN THE "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN IN PRAVDA JULY 30, LIKEWISE GIVES A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT BUT AS NOTED BELOW DEVOTES MOST COMMENT TO THE MACHINATIONS OF DETENTE'S OPPONENTS AGAINST HELSINKI. VISHNEVSKIY DECLARES THAT PEACE HAS BECOME MUCH MORE STABLE IN EUROPE SINCE HELSINKI, AND CONCLUDES THAT PEOPLES' DESIRE FOR DETENTE "IS EXERTING DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS." IN A JULY 31 ANNIVERSARY PIECE IN PRAVDA, CORRESPONDENT YAKHONTOV SIMILARLY ASSERTS THAT THE HELSINKI MEETING HAS EXERTED "GREAT, POSITIVE INFLUENCE" ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT AND PEACE.

2. BREZHNEV'S EARLY MAY VISIT TO THE FRG SERVES AS THE STARTING POINT FOR SEVERAL COMMENTARIES WHICH COUNTERPOSE (WITH VARYING DEGRESS OF UNSUBTLETY)

THE ALLEGED RECEPTIVITY OF EUROPEAN LEADERS' TO
DETENTE AS OPPOSED TO WASHINGTON'S LESS POSITIVE
APPROACH. SHITIKOV CALLS THE BREZHNEV VISIT A
"SIGNIFICANT STAGE IN STABILIZING POLITICAL DETENTE"
AND IN CREATING "PRECONDITIONS FOR EXTENDING IT
TO THE MILITARY FIELD." PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YAKHONTOV
USES VIRTUALLY THE SAME LANGUAGE. VISHNEVSKIY
QUOTES CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT APPROVINGLY FOR HIS
AVOWED INTENTION TO RAISE THE QUALITY AND LEVEL OF
RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. RECENT STATEMENTS OF

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KREISKY AND ECEVIT ARE ALSO CITED APPROVINGLY.

3. SOVIET COMMENTATORS DWELL AT LENGTH ON METHODS
ALLEGEDLY BEING USED BY DETENTE'S "OPPONENTS" TO
UNDERMINE THE HELSINKI GAINS. VISHNEVSKIY COMPLAINS
THAT SOME ARE "TEARING" INDIVIDUAL PROVISIONS

FROM THE FINAL ACT AND "USING THEM AS LEVERS TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES." THESE ACTIONS "CRUDELY" VIOLATE THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF THE FINAL ACT: THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THUS, "WASHINGTON STRATEGISTS" ARE READY TO ASSIGN THEMSELVES A ROLE OF ADVOCATE AND JUDGE IN SOVIET LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, BUT DO NOTHING ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S., SAYING THEY HAVE NO JURIDICAL GROUNDS FOR ACTION. VISHNEVSKIY DESCRIBES THE FUTILE "MILITARY LEVER" EMPLOYED BY PRESIDENT WILSON AGAINST THE SOVIETS IN 1918, AND THE "LEVER OF DIPLOMATIC NON-RECOGNITION" EMPLOYED UNTIL ROOSEVELT'S ADMINISTRATION, AND OPINES THAT "CRUDE PRESSURE" DOESN'T WORK. VISHNEVSKIY NOTES IN CONCLUDING THAT REALISTIC THINKING PEOPLE IN THE U.S. ARE CRITICIZING THE "UNREASONABLE ACTIONS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION." MOREOVER, WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES OF THE U.S. IN NATO ARE "DISTANCING THEMSELVES DEMONSTRATIVELY FROM THE RASH ACTIONS OF WASHINGTON."

4. SHITIKOV IN HIS IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ATTACKS "HUMAN RIGHTS" CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, SAYING THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE WON'T TOLERATE SUCH INTERFERENCE. SHITIKOV SUGGESTS THERE IS A CONVERGENCE OF INTEREST BETWEEN PEKING AND NATO POLICYMAKERS WHO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF A "SOVIET THREAT," AND CALLS FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TO FRUSTRATE THOSE WHO WANT TO "FORCE THE NEUTRON BOMB ON WESTERN EUROPE." IN THE LATTER CONTEXT HE NOTES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER APPEALING FOR HIM NOT TO TAKE ANY SUCH DESTABILIZING STEP. YAKHONTOV IN PRAVDA LIKEWISE HITS AT THOSE WHO INTERFERE IN SOVIET AFFAIRS IN THE NAME OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE DECISION INTRODUCING TRADE RESTRICTIONS IS AN CONFIDENTIAL

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EXAMPLE OF AN ATTEMPT TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SOVIET POLICY. DRAWING ON BREZHNEV'S COMMENT JUNE 25 AT MINSK, WHERE THE LATEST SOVIET EFFORT OF WORDS TO WIDEN THE GAP BETWEEN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND THE U.S. MAY HAVE HAD ITS START, YAKHONTOV CONCLUDES

THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITIVE
CHANGES ACCOMPLISHED SINCE HELSINKI, AND THEN THE
"EUROPEANS THEMSELVES CAN DEMONSTRATE IN PRACTICE
HOW ONE SHOULD PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST, FRUITFULLY
COOPERATE AND WORK TOGETHER."

5. A "STUDIO NINE" TELEVISION BROADCAST ON JULY 29
FEATURED FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF, CPSU CC INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT ZAGLADIN AND SHISHLIN, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED
AS CHIEF OF A PANEL OF CONSULTANTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT, DISCUSSING THE RELATIONSHIP OF DETENTE
TO HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THE MAIN TARGETS WERE
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AND HIS PUR-
PORTED DEFINITION OF THE UNWRITTEN CODE OF DETENTE.
ACCORDING TO THE TWO SPEAKERS, THE USSR HAS FULLY
ABIDED BY THE TERMS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND
ITS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE WHOLLY CON-
SISTENT WITH THE FINAL ACT. ZAGLADIN DEFENDED
SOVIET AFRICAN POLICY BY CLAIMING THAT THE FINAL
ACT IN NO WAY BOUND ITS SIGNATORIES TO DEFEND THE
SOCIAL
STATUS QUO OR TO ABJURE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.
SOVIET CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES WERE ALSO DEFENDED AS
CONSISTENT WITH HELSINKI AND U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS
PROGRAMS WERE CONDEMNED AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENTS, AND PARTICULARLY
FOR THOSE RECENTLY CONVICTED OF ESPIONAGE, WAS

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PRESENTED AS AN EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE SOCIALIST
SYSTEM.

6. THE CENTERPIECE OF SOVIET COMMEMORATION
OF THE HELSINKI ANNIVERSARY, AN MFA PRESS CONFERENCE
JULY 31 CONDUCTED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER KOVALEV, IS REPORTED SEPTEL. IT IS NOTE-
WORTHY THAT KOVALEV, UNLIKE THE PRESS COMMENTARIES,
DOES NOT STRESS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND
WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
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THE FINAL ACT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. ALONG WITH THE
BRITISH ARE DIRECTLY CRITICIZED. RESPONDING TO
A QUESTION ABOUT CANCELLATIONS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES,
KOVALEV CONCEDES THAT SOME STATES HAVE TAKEN SUCH
UNILATERAL ACTIONS, NAMELY SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS
"HAVE RECEIVED FROM THEIR LONDON PARTNERS NOTIFICATION
ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OR DEFERRAL OF SOME UNDER-
TAKINGS IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES."

7. COMMENT: WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS HAVE ALSO BEEN
STRUCK BY SOVIET EFFORTS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN
DETENTE AS ALLEGEDLY PRACTICED IN WASHINGTON AND
IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR
REMARKED TO EMBOFF AT A JULY 31 RECEPTION THAT THE
SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE FACT
THAT THE EC STATEMENT ON THE DISSIDENT TRIALS WAS
AS HARSH AS SOME STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON.
HE NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION OF
SOVIET PIQUE AT THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
STATEMENT. THE WEST GERMANS HAVE SUGGESTED TO US
THAT THEY SEE THE RELATIVELY POSITIVE TREATMENT OF
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REFLECTING AS MUCH SOVIET SATIS-
FACTION WITH THE BREZHNEV VISIT AND THE RECENT
STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AS ANY
"APPRECIATION" FOR THE MORE SUBDUED APPROACH ADOPTED
BY BONN TO THE TRIALS. TOON

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